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Minden men charged with vehicle thefts

by **SUE TIFFIN**
Editor

Last Saturday, April Austen woke up, put coffee on, looked out the window and saw that her family's truck had been stolen.

Experiencing shock, then anger, then a sense of determination, she phoned the police, then asked a neighbour, who gets home from work at around 3 a.m., if he had seen the truck – a 2021 Dodge Ram – upon his return. He confirmed it had been there at that time.

"We all look out for each other, I love our road," said Austen, speaking to the sense of security she is used to on Scotch Line Road.

She then logged in to her onboard UConnect GPS system, which allows her to remote start, lock and track the vehicle.

Meanwhile, earlier that morning, at approximately 6 a.m., Haliburton Highlands OPP recovered another stolen vehicle that was located abandoned in a snowbank up the road from Austen, on Scotch Line Road. Witnesses had seen two men flee the scene.

When the police arrived at Austen's house just after 8 a.m., she could report her truck stolen, and also where it was located.

"I was able to tell him at the moment it parked at the Minden Legion, that it was at the Minden Legion," she said.

see **FIVE** page 2



Winter walking

Jane and Peter Kinsley, of South Lake, were out for a walk down Hamilton Road on Feb. 27, with snow grips on their boots and walking poles in hand. Peter said they hadn't been out for a week, and Jane agreed, noting it had been too cold and too icy as parts of Haliburton County became covered with ice that was then blanketed with snow. /SUE TIFFIN Staff

Minden Hills Cultural Centre loses curator

by **STEPHEN PETRICK**
Special to the Times

The Minden Hills Cultural Centre is suddenly without a curator and March Break programs will not happen this year.

It's worrying news for an important municipally-run operation and tourist attraction, especially given that it's coming out of fairly quiet COVID years and because it's faced turnover in the past.

Laurie Carmount, the curator who was responsible for overseeing programs at the

centre, which includes the Agnes Jamieson Gallery, Minden Hills Museum and Heritage Village and Nature's Place, is no longer employed there, a town official confirmed in an email to the *Minden Times* on Monday.

But the email, from Minden Hills Community Services Director Craig Belfry,

see **MARCH** page 2

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21

Five vehicles stolen and recovered last week

from page 1

The legion parking lot off of Highway 35 is where Haliburton Highlands OPP arrested and charged a 32-year-old Minden man with theft of a motor vehicle; two counts of possession of property obtained by crime over \$5,000; operation while prohibited and driving while under suspension. He is scheduled to appear in court in Minden on April 6. The accused was held in custody pending a bail hearing, and released the next day.

After a follow-up investigation, a second person – a 43-year-old Minden man – was charged with theft of a motor vehicle and possession of property obtained by crime over \$5,000 – two counts. He will also appear in Minden court on April 6.

“Definitely that had a huge influence in the success of this investigation, is the use of that GPS tracker,” said Gosia Puzio, OPP media relations and community services co-ordinator for the central region. “It was a great tool and definitely had a significant impact.”

Austen’s truck – which she uses for her cleaning business – was returned later the day it was stolen, with damage. The situation has caused her a great amount of stress.

“I feel completely violated that somebody, possibly local, did this to another person and had to cause stress,” she said. “This is my business and my livelihood. We’re a one-vehicle family, so there is no other mode of transportation, which is pretty horrible when it’s the middle of winter and you have small children and the thought of something else going wrong or me needing to get somewhere ...”

OPP could not confirm yet if the Feb. 26 thefts are related to three separate vehicle thefts in Minden’s downtown in the early hours of Feb. 21, which they also could not yet confirm were related. In the past week, five vehicles, including Austen’s – have been stolen and recovered.

“The investigation is ongoing and at this time, it is unclear whether these thefts are related,” read a Feb. 22 press release regarding the first three thefts. “Members of the public

are encouraged to report all suspicious activity or information that may aid in these investigations to police.”

The press release reminds residents to:

- Always lock your vehicles and close the windows
- Never leave keys inside of your vehicle
- Remove everything from sight, leaving nothing in your vehicle to steal
- Remove garage door openers from your car
- Never leave the car running and unattended

Anyone with information, including security video, connected to any of the five stolen vehicle incidents is asked to call Haliburton Highlands OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or 705-286-1431. Information can also be provided anonymously to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or kh-crimestoppers.com.

“We want to work with the community to solve these crimes,” Provincial Constable Michael Melnychuk told the *Times*.

March Break programs cancelled

from page 1

did not answer whether Carmount left voluntarily or if she was fired.

“The township does not comment on previous or current employees,” Belfry wrote. “I can confirm that Laurie Carmount is no longer employed with the Township of Minden Hills. The municipality will unfortunately be cancelling the March Break program at the Cultural Centre, as staffing levels are not in place to offer these programs in a safe and successful manner. To date, there had been no registrations for the program.”

Belfry added, “the municipality will now begin the process to recruit staff, and we are looking forward to an excellent summer season. The Minden Hills Cultural Centre is a valued integral part of the community, and we are confident in the future of the centre, and all of its potential.”

When contacted by the *Times*, Carmount declined comment at this time.

When reached by phone on Monday night, Minden Hills Mayor Brent Devolin also declined to reveal whether the departure was voluntary or a dismissal.

“With anything that has to do with HR, there’s privacy and confidentiality issues,” he said.

Devolin said he wasn’t too concerned about the centre not having March Break programs, given that the centre had not seen a demand for it this year, likely because of the pandemic.



Laurie Carmount, the curator who was responsible for overseeing programs at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre, which includes the Agnes Jamieson Gallery, Minden Hills Museum and Heritage Village and Nature's Place, is no longer employed there, a town official confirmed in an email to the *Minden Times* on Monday. /File photo

He said he was optimistic that, by summer, the centre will be ready to support a full range of programs. He also explained that the town will not likely fill the position right away. With budget discussions for the new fiscal year ongoing, the municipality, he said, has an opportunity to re-think how it wants the centre to operate. He expects the municipality to take its time to advertise, recruit applicants and fill a new position. He explained that if staff envision a new staffing structure, the process could take longer, as it would have to be approved by council.

“Hopefully 60 days from now, we’re back to normal,” he said.

could continue to be successful.

However, he said, work during this term of council has been sidetracked due to the pandemic and few public meetings have taken place over the past two years.

Mitchell said he hopes there will be renewed interest in

getting the centre back up and running to its full potential.

“I think [the cultural centre] is a real potential gem, if not one that is undervalued and underrated at the moment,” he said.

The Cultural Centre, located at 176 Bobcaygeon Rd., has been subject to sudden restructuring in the past. In 2015, former curator Darren Levstek was let go, amid a restructuring process.

A member of the centre’s advisory council expressed concern that town officials have been quiet about what has happened.

“I don’t know what’s happened, but there hasn’t been any public service announcement,” said Jim Mitchell, a long-time supporter of the centre, who has served on the centre’s advisory board for nearly two full council terms.

The committee had been scheduled to meet virtually on the morning of Feb. 22, but the meeting was cancelled just hours before its start.

Mitchell said the committee had good momentum in the previous term; at the end of the term it issued a report to the municipality with recommendations on how the centre

COVID-19 Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths by County							
County	Current Cases Not Resolved	Current Probable Cases	Confirmed Cases (Total to date)	Confirmed Cases Resolved (Total to date)	Hospitalizations (Total to date)	Confirmed Deaths (Total to date)	Probable Deaths (Total to date)
Haliburton	5	0	402	396	7	1	0
Kawartha Lakes	56	1	3,500	3,380	94	64	13
Northumberland	42	1	3,143	3,075	76	26	0
Pending Information	0	0	3	3	0	0	0
Total	103	2	7,048	6,854	177	91	13

One additional hospitalization, fewer current cases

In the Feb. 28 update from the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District health unit, one new case of COVID-19 had been reported in Haliburton County, for a total of five current cases, with one additional hospitalization reported. The health unit reminds the public that testing is limited, and so the number of reported cases is an underestimate of the community spread./Screenshot from HKPRDHU

Minden council ponders livestream policy

by NICK BERNARD
Times Staff

Minden Hills council has made a commitment to continue its discussion on a recent draft policy centered around video recording and livestreaming of council meetings.

On the advent of the pandemic's first wave, businesses around the world were forced to adapt to the rapid changes that the effort to contain COVID-19 required, council of Minden Hills included. Since the beginning of the pandemic, council has been conducted through YouTube livestream, made available to the public only while council is in session.

At their meeting on Feb 24, deputy clerk Vicki Bull sought the approval of a video recordings and livestreaming of meetings policy. The policy, which was compiled as a draft last year, outlines a number of efforts to improve accessibility, transparency, and community participation with the decision making processes within the government of Minden Hills.

A revised version of the policy was what was presented, following a legal review. The suggested revisions to the policy include the following:

- Video records will only be available while council is in session. In the draft policy, records were to be available to the public for the current year, plus one year thereafter.

- Unless otherwise indicated, copyright to the recordings of meetings made is owned by the municipality. Permission is required to produce or reproduce the recordings, or any substantial part of such recordings, for personal, non-commercial, educational and news reporting purposes. This is new language added to the policy, which serves as a risk mitigation clause against unauthorized use of council meetings.

While Bull was expecting a swift passing of the policy, a number of concerns were raised that prompted the conversation's deferral to another date.

Councillor Pam Sayne expressed her hope for a compromise on the availability of council meeting livestreams after the fact.

"I think people are at work during our council meetings, I would like to see this up at least for a couple days that people can have access to what's going on at council," she said. "I think this Zoom opportunity allows us to do this, and so I would like to see that live for ... a period of time so people who are working during the council meetings still have access to be informed and talk to their local councillors about things that they see or would like to have more input into."

Bull explained that they did possess the ability to make the meetings public for any length of time, as it is a simple administrative function on YouTube's backend. Chief administrative officer Tricia McKibbin stated that keeping the meetings available would be easier, from an administrative professional.

"[Deputy clerk Shannon Prentice] is actually the one that goes [to change the settings]," McKibbin said, describing the livestream process in broad terms. "I don't see it being an issue."

Councillor Jennifer Hughey commented on the versatility of YouTube as a platform, and its ease of use regarding administrative changes of this type.

"YouTube has a lot of capabilities – it depends on our subscription ... there are specifics that come with a free application or a paid application," Hughey said. "Secondarily – and this is just my professional opinion, because I do work with YouTube quite a bit – keeping something up for an extended period of time ... does increase the certain liabilities you may

think comes along with it."

Liability was also the primary concern of Councillor Bob Carter, who voiced his concern over the availability of meetings leaving them open to misuse.

"I'd like to understand all of the ramifications of keeping [meetings] up there," he said. "Can it be copied, so on and so forth. If we're going to look at this and do something different from what we proposed, let's really look at it."

The conversation is expected to continue with the possibility of a final resolution on Mar. 10.

The draft policy is available to view on the Minden Hills website: mindenhills.civicweb.net/portal/



Women Who Care support Places for People

Places for People president Jody Curry, centre, and vice president Fay Martin, far left, stand with Tina Palmer, second to left, Sandra Slauenwhite-Box, second from the right, and Pat Bradley, far right, from 100 Women Who Care, Haliburton County. The women's group, which typically raises thousands of dollars in a meeting that only lasts about an hour, raised \$6,800 for Places for People at their Feb. 16 meeting. P4P is a charity that "creates and manages secure quality housing in Haliburton County for low and moderate income renters and creates the conditions in which they can thrive." /Photo by Nick Bernard

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(VIRTUAL) COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted virtually via web conference meetings, until further notice. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted. The schedule of upcoming meetings are:

March 10 – Regular Council Meeting
March 31 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link available on the township website at www.mindenhills.ca/council/ or by using the direct link provided in the notice. Meeting agendas are not displayed during the meeting, please download by visiting our website at www.mindenhills.ca/council/. Please note the live-stream link provided for each meeting will only be activated while Council is in session.

IMPORTANT TAX INFORMATION

The 2022 Interim tax bills were mailed on February 25, 2022. If you have not received your bill(s) prior to the March due date, please contact our office. The Interim tax bill will be payable in two installments; March 18th and May 20th, 2022. This bill has been calculated using the 2021 annualized assessment multiplied by 50% of the 2021 applicable tax rate(s). Payments received after February 15th may not be reflected on your tax bill. Please note that any overdue amounts do not include penalty/interest for March. Please contact our office for a current balance. Property owners are responsible to provide to the Municipal Office written notification of any address change. Failure to receive your tax bill does not exempt penalty charges from being applied to a tax account.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

We are currently looking to fill a variety of positions within the Township. Many opportunities include benefits such as enrollment in a comprehensive benefit package, Employee Assistance Plan, life insurance, personal health coverage, OMERS pension plan, vacation, float and sick time entitlements as well as opportunities for training and development. Please visit our website at www.mindenhills.ca/employment-opportunities/ or email sprentice@mindenhills.ca for a list of available jobs and how to apply.

SPRING LOAD RESTRICTIONS (HALF LOADS)

Half Load weight restrictions are placed on roadways and posted each year in the spring for approximately 1-2 months. Persons contravening this regulation will be prosecuted under Section 122 of The Highway Traffic Act. Please watch for and obey posted signage.

ARE YOU ON THE VOTER'S LIST FOR THE 2022 MUNICIPAL AND SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS?

Township of Minden Hills residents can find out whether they're on the voter's list for the upcoming municipal and school board elections at voterlookup.ca. Voterlookup.ca is an online service used to collect and confirm information that will be used in the preparation of the final Voters' Lists across Ontario. You can also change your school support for electoral purposes and add names to your property address. If you do not have access to the internet, please visit the Administration Office, Clerks Department, 7 Milne St., Minden. If you need support, please call 1-866-296-6722.



Food Centre thanks community in 2021 update

The Minden Community Food Centre stayed busy in 2021, distributing about 81,000 pounds of food to people in need.

"MCFC continues to be busy, especially in the first, third and fourth quarter, as many find work in the summer months," reads a 2021 update, shared last week. "During COVID-19, it is almost impossible to predict with any accuracy the stats on clients and client visits. Many regular clients received funds from government programs. Our number of registered clients has increased substantially but the actual number of client visits remain about the same, but with irregular visits from regular clients being replaced with new COVID-related clients coming."

Donations to the Minden Community Food Centre last year ranged from five dollars, to ten thousand dollars. In the food centre's 2021 report, these donations – from individuals, businesses, service clubs, Minden Hills township, through grants and other organizations – as well as donations of food, personal care items and toys are acknowledged, with the report noting, "they all are very appreciated."

As well as food, personal care items and toys, the food centre also helps by operating a lending library for medical equipment such as walkers and wheelchairs.

"We accept donations of these pieces of equipment when a family member no longer needs them," reads the report.

Volunteers at the centre are also appreciated. Normally, the Minden Community Food Centre operates with 40 to 45 active volunteers.

"At the outset of COVID, a small group of working vol-

unteers were working," reads the report. "They felt comfortable in their small group and chose to continue with their small group until things improve and they felt safe with new people. This continued for about 19 months at which time six volunteers who had not travelled came back to MCFC as volunteers ... Our volunteers are mostly in their 70s and 80s so we are very cautious."

The Christmas hamper program operated in a drive-through manner for the second year last December, serving about 170 families with either turkey or ham dinners, a week of groceries and toys for the children.

"MCFC has enjoyed another successful year and continues to support programs helping children, sharing meat and other products with all of the other Haliburton food banks," reads the report.

The food centre building, at 24 Newcastle Street in Minden, is now seven years old.

"We partnered with the Acadia Masonic Lodge to create a wonderful place for people to come when they need food, but have grown to offer much more," reads the report. "The main level is about six times the size of our facility to include a larger serving area and a hub to store surplus foods. This allows us to purchase in bulk at reduced costs and the ability to serve more with fewer donated dollars."

The facility's walk-in outside freezer and an indoor walk-in refrigerator plus numerous freezers and refrigerators has helped organize and manage food supply.

"Because our numbers continue to increase, this facility has truly been a blessing," reads the report.

For questions, more information or to donate, please visit mindenfoodbank.org.

Staff

The Minden Community Food Centre's second drive-through Christmas hamper program during the pandemic served about 170 families. /Photo submitted



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A caring call

A new nurse call bell system is now being implemented in both Hyland Crest and Highland Wood long-term care homes, complementing the work already completed in Haliburton Hospital. A nurse call button is a button or cord found in hospitals and nursing homes, at places where residents or patients are at their most vulnerable, such as beside their bed and in the bathroom. It allows patients in healthcare settings to alert a nurse or other healthcare staff member remotely of their need for help.

The new system being implemented is a powerful platform for clinical connectivity to help improve resident/patient safety and satisfaction, and improve efficiency at the point of care. This state-of-the-art system will provide integration across the long-term care homes, and emergency and acute-care departments. This is a significant funding commitment by Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation of \$420,000 for the new system in both long-term care facilities. HHHS Foundation is very grateful to the Minden Health Care Auxiliary for their very generous donation of \$10,000 in support of the implementation at Hyland Crest, and applauds the auxiliary members for their ongoing commitment and fundraising efforts in support of health care in our community, raising funds through events (pre-COVID), as well as from a variety of donations, including online. From left, from the HHHS Foundation, Carol Patrick, board treasurer, and Lisa Tompkins, executive director, met outside Hyland Crest with members of the Minden Health Care Auxiliary: Tracy Gaulberto, treasurer, Anne Stephens, president and Mickey Bonham for a cheque presentation on Feb. 24. /Photo by SUE TIFFIN Staff

Benefits outweigh risks as restrictions lifted: MOH

by **SUE TIFFIN**
Editor

The following are brief reports from a Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit press conference with medical officer of health Dr. Natalie Bocking, held virtually on Feb. 23.

When asked if she is comfortable with the provincial government's accelerated timeline of lifting restrictions including vaccination mandates and capacity limits at businesses, Bocking noted the policy decisions being made are difficult for the government.

"We know that they are trying to weigh the risks and benefits," she said. "We know there are risks lifting restrictions, that we could see increased COVID-19 activity as people have more contacts in their lives, there's more opportunity for the virus to spread. We know however that there's risks for maintaining restrictions and there's harms for maintaining restrictions."

She said it was important to find a balance where there is, "not an equal level of risk, but an acceptable level of risk."

She said the primary goal of restrictions during the Omicron variant wave was to not overburden the healthcare system.

"I'm comfortable right now that the level of activity of Omicron that we're seeing and the level of activity that might increase with lifting public health restrictions will not result in overwhelming our healthcare system the same way that we saw at the peak of Omicron or the peaks of other waves," she said. "In that sense, the risks of lifting these measures are not as high as they used to be and the benefits of doing so are strong in that argument."

Bocking did caution the public, and businesses, that COVID-19 activity remains, and continued to recommend mask-wearing, staying home while sick and vaccinations.

"COVID-19 is going to continue to be with us, and the goal

is to try to decrease transmission as much as we can in order to prevent those people most vulnerable to severe illness from becoming sick," she said.

Preparing for the end of mask mandates

Bocking said that lifting the mask mandate would depend on ongoing COVID-19 activity in the community, and the impact of lifting current restrictions such as capacity limits and proof of vaccination requirements.

"It's quite prudent to continue this staged approach to see what the impact is in lifting some restrictions before easing all restrictions - we've seen that in other jurisdictions globally, this phased approach," she said.

Bocking said she has heard discussions that mask mandates could end provincially as early as within a month.

"Personally that might be too soon," she said. "I know people are tired of wearing masks but I think there is certainly a level of ongoing viral transmission in the community that they're still an important protective measure in protecting our vulnerable community members. Some difficult decisions being made at a provincial level and we'll continue to monitor really all of our indicators for COVID-19 activity at a community and a provincial level."

Plateaued, steady state of activity

Bocking said there has been a significant decrease from the peak of Omicron activity about a month ago but not down yet to the "very, very low activity" seen locally between the third and the most recent wave of COVID-19.

She said while testing remains limited, other indicators are still being followed for a sense of COVID-19 transmission.

The health unit is now seeing about 20 to 30 new lab-confirmed cases per day, with a test positivity around 12 per cent. To put test positivity in perspective, she said at the peak of Omicron activity, it was 20 per cent, and prior to the dominance of the Omicron variant, test positivity rates in the re-

gion were two to three per cent.

"We're not down at the level we'd like to be but certainly an improvement from where we were at the peak of Omicron activity," she said.

New outbreaks are still being identified, at a decreased rate. At the time of the briefing there remained eight outbreaks in high-risk settings, three of those at long-term care homes.

The viral signal at Lindsay and Cobourg sewersheds continued to decrease, and was significantly lower than at the peak of the most recent wave but was not quite down to baseline - or a very low level of activity.

"All of these indicators together tell me certainly that Omicron is still present in the community, there is still ongoing transmission," said Bocking. "It's much better than where we were a month ago, and the impact that ongoing Omicron activity is having on our acute care system remains manageable, and the impact of ongoing transmission on public health services remains manageable. We will see some ongoing transmission for the next couple of weeks."

By the numbers

Since Jan. 1, or the general dominance of the Omicron variant, Bocking said there has been 63 hospital admissions, 14 ICU admissions and 26 deaths in the region.

Of those aged 70 and older, 85.6 per cent have had their booster dose; while 73.3 per cent of those 50 and older have had their booster dose of vaccine; and 60.5 per cent of those aged 18 and older have received their booster dose.

In the area, 48.1 per cent of kids aged five to 11, who have had access to COVID-19 vaccines since December, have had their first dose of vaccine.

The next session with Dr. Bocking will take place in two weeks, on March 9 as the health unit's media briefings move to being held twice a month rather than weekly.

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Virtual on demand

I'VE WRITTEN before in this space of the value of virtual council sessions, which have enabled reporters to attend more meetings free of travel restrictions or scheduling conflicts. Though not without some technological mishaps, a virtual option has made discussions during meetings easier to see and hear because of the ability of viewers to adjust volume and have a clear view of faces rather than the backs of heads that can come from meeting room space challenges.

Virtual meetings have also been helpful for the public. Rather than needing to arrange childcare or drive to council sessions during breaks from work, or wait hours in council chambers for one agenda item of interest, viewers are more able to multitask while a video plays at low volume, tuning in when they so choose.

Think of the benefit this has brought to the county's seasonal residents alone, who can hear the discussions – even make delegations remotely – from wherever they are during the week, during the winter, on the local matters that are important to them year-round. Councillors too, can take in discussions on similar issues happening in neighbouring townships without travelling to attend in person – and some have, bringing knowledge learned back with them.

If a video is uploaded to YouTube for access after the meeting, the advantages for the press and public increase. Now, reporters don't need to juggle schedules as much to ensure meetings can be attended – those who prefer to work at night or on weekends can tune into recorded meetings at that time, or attend one meeting in person, catching up on another meeting later. This is especially important because greater access to meetings has meant, well, more meetings.

The option of nighttime council meetings is available in some other towns throughout the province but a

recorded meeting available online allows for nighttime views of meetings that took place during daytime regular work hours without having to shift work schedules for township staff. If a constituent has a question after a meeting, township staff – or councillors themselves – can send them a link pointing to the moment in the meeting in which they'll find answers in the form of a full discussion. Overall, a recorded option allows for greater transparency and accountability.

Minden Hills council remains the only council in the county to offer the press and public livestream recordings only while the council meetings are in session. If you don't watch them as they're happening, they aren't available to view later. On the township's

YouTube page, there's no content.

Compare that to the offerings from Algonquin Highlands, Dysart et al, Highlands East, or the county, which offer uploaded videos for varying lengths of time – sometimes longer than a year. From the Dysart et al YouTube page, it's possible to watch the

**SUE TIFFIN**
Editor

municipality's May 5, 2020 meeting to your heart's content. That video has had 270 views, far surpassing the number of people who usually show up to council meetings, or would even fit in council chambers. The shoreline preservation bylaw virtual open house held by county council last year in July has been viewed more than 1,100 times and can still be referenced ahead of next week's shoreline preservation bylaw meeting for those who want to catch up – in fact, a message from the county to the public suggests just that for those who've missed the previous discussions.

If the virtual sessions have boosted public participation, enabling broader access to them for some time after they happen has removed some significant barriers for increased civic engagement. Time for Minden Hills council to offer that same opportunity, with just the click of a mouse.



Kim Wark
“I need a five letter word that starts with ‘ca.’”

In a bind

A RECENT SNOWSHOE excursion made me realize that while I have seen and even written many articles about snowshoeing, I can't recall writing or even perusing one about the harnesses we use to attach ourselves to our snowshoes. In fact, when I was doing on-line research to confirm that statement, I discovered that if you use keywords such as “leather straps” and “using rubber harnesses” or “the best bindings” you end up in some strange corners of the internet that have nothing at all to do with snowshoeing.

And this can take up a lot of your day.

Yet, the harness is the most important part of the snowshoeing experience. Mostly because it makes sure that you don't have to wade through chest deep snow to get back to where you left your snowshoes. Good snowshoe harnesses are secure, easy to strap to your boots and comfortable.

And mine are that too, but last Friday I discovered that there is more to it than this. You see, that's when I also discovered the importance of the felt liner inside of my winter boots. I realized this after mine had suddenly been worn too thin at the back, precisely where my snowshoe harness crossed and sawed at my heel. This is not good.

It would have been fine had the problem revealed itself at the start. But it didn't. Instead, it made itself known when we were at the furthest point of the loop on which we were snowshoeing. So, by the time we made it back to our starting point I had painful blisters on each heel.

This could have been avoided had I just stopped and found something to place between the strap and my heels to stop the chafing. My mitts would have done the job nicely.

But I did not do that because when you are in a group of snowshoers who are snowshoeing for no reason other than a love of snowshoeing, you are also in a group of smug fitness enthusiasts. That means when you suddenly stop snowshoeing to “adjust your straps” no one believes that you actually need to do that. Oh sure, they say they do. But what they are actually thinking is, “Man, the old guy is so out of shape, he's using the, ‘I have to adjust my snowshoes’ excuse just so he can catch his breath.”

It was even worse for me on that day though. I was the youngest one in the group.

So, I adjusted my snowshoes and soldiered on, wincing with each painful step until we had covered the mile or so back to the car. But I was also able to

hold my head high because I did not once fall behind. Honestly, I have never been so happy to take off a pair of snowshoes.

I won't lie. I was also proud that I had kept up despite this trauma. Remember, it was a heel injury that killed Achilles. And he was much younger than me.

Sadly, however, after I took my snowshoes off, I was limping and taking tiny steps because the back of my boot rubbed my blisters raw with every footfall. And that's when I heard one of them say, “Will you look at how he's walking. That poor guy is really out of shape.”

Which, ironically, rubbed me the wrong way too.

**STEVE GALEA**
Beyond 35

IN OTHER WORDS

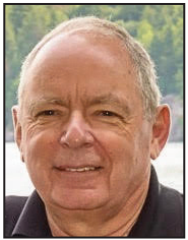
Columns and Letters to the Editor

Remembering thick lead pencils

I YEARNED RECENTLY for a dose of nostalgia so I bought Carl Bernstein's memoir *Chasing History: A Kid in the Newsroom*.

Bernstein and I had much in common as kids entering the newspaper business. (That changed as he became famous and rich. I'm still working on it).

Neither of us had much education, we started at roughly the same time and the editors who hired us did so with skepticism. We both had to find dress suits to start work in.



JIM POLING SR.

From Shaman's Rock

The newsrooms we entered as googly-eyed youngsters were similar. They were jammed with gunmetal grey desks groaning beneath stacks of old newspapers, newsroom library files, stenographer notebooks and Underwood 5 and Royal typewriters.

The Women's News and Sports Departments were tucked into corners, away from the newsroom's central core, where the "real important news" was collected, written and edited.

Every newsroom core held a desk – often U-shaped – where enthusiastic young reporters received lessons in humility. There sat stern, sharp-eyed editors with midnight black or blood red lead pencils poised to carve flowery writing into straight forward English, free of

bloat and cliches.

A lifetime later I vividly recall approaching the editing desk with a brilliantly written story about a fatal car crash. It sang with pungent words and descriptive phrases worthy of the literary giants.

I watched horrified as the red pencil slashed and carved, leaving red blotches that looked like blood having dripped from a cut throat. My literary masterpiece was reduced to simple facts: Two people died this morning in a two-car collision on Highway 17 North . . .

Such editing scenes seldom occur in newsrooms these days. Newsroom staffs across North America have been slashed by thousands. Copy editors have been the hardest hit.

The result is stories lacking the depth, accuracy and clarity that come from the sober second look of editing.

Television news, which never had much professional editing, has become a playground for language misuse, cliches and misinformation.

TV news' absolute favourite cliché these days is "on the ground." Reporters are "on the ground," wherever that is or whatever it means.

Another is "reached out." A reporter "reached out" to someone, which I assume means they asked someone a question.

Reached out makes me think of decomposing arms reaching out from the ground to pull someone into the grave.

Another is "Needless to say." If it is needless to say, then don't say it.

Some will accuse me of being petty and whiney. There are more important things to think about.

Indeed, there are, but being careful with words is important. What's seen and heard in print and on screens spreads and starts to become standard.

Politicians and other authority figures regularly utter useless phrases like "reaching out," "on the ground" and "thinking outside the box." Most worrisome, however, is that politicians, in particular, misuse language to blur clarity and accuracy, and to create misinformation and disinformation.

An example: Ted Cruz, the extreme right-wing U.S. senator from Texas, said participants in the anti-everything insurrection that paralysed Canada's capital city are heroes.

They were not heroes. They were protesters demanding that government make changes that they felt were needed. They had every right to do that, of course, until they began breaking laws and trampling other people's rights.

Heroes are people who do brave acts, often at risk to themselves. Heroes are people like Adam Attalla, the 18-year-old who risked his life in January to rescue three children from a burning home in Mississauga.

Calling protesters heroes is misinformation designed to further a political agenda. It also shows that even attending private schools and elite universities does not make a person like Cruz immune to stupidity.

It was fun for me to read Bernstein's book and remember "the good old days." But it's sad to realize that many of the checks and balances that kept news and information honest and factual no longer exist. Anyone gets to write or say anything they want without editing, notably on unedited social media platforms.

The good old days are gone, along with the thick lead editing pencils. Maybe that's not a bad thing, provided we find other ways to ensure that what we write and say is accurate, honest, fair and clear.



Perched on a tree

An American goldfinch doesn't seem to mind a few falling flakes during a snowfall on Jan. 5. /Photo by June Krisko

letters to the editor

Support for the shoreline bylaw

To the Editor,

On March 9, Haliburton County council will meet yet again to discuss the shoreline preservation bylaw that has been in the works for several years. The pandemic has made it even more important to protect what's left of our natural shorelines as a real estate frenzy has taken over our county and pressure on our lakes has dramatically increased.

If adopted, the bylaw would regulate only an area measured 30 metres inland from the high water mark of a defined body of water. Development around lakes has resulted in the removal of trees, shrubs and other protective vegetation, and unnatural hardened shorelines. Native vegetation, with its deep root systems and natural duff layer, acts like a sponge to hold stormwater runoff and associated nutrients. Impervious surfaces result in more stormwater running directly into the lake. Stormwater runoff picks up non point source (NPS) pollutants like soil sediment, nutrients and chemicals that can be detrimental to lake water quality. NPS pol-

lution that enters lakes affects the nutrient balance of the water and creates less vibrant and unhealthy bottom sediments. It can cover fish eggs and habitat as well. Maintenance and restoration of shoreline vegetation and revegetation allows native plants to fill in the shoreline area and will increase biodiversity, wildlife habitat and protect property values.

Opponents to the bylaw include those who gain financially in the short term from the presently unregulated lot landscaping practices which often result in long-term environmental degradation. Our councillors need to hear from people like you who understand the necessity of protecting our lakes from erosion, pollution and biodiversity loss through the nature-based solutions that native vegetation provides. Please either call or write to your local councillor, supporting adoption of the shoreline preservation bylaw, as soon as possible. Haliburton County's amazing ecosystems will thank you!

John Gibb
Minden

HCPL's Book of the Month -March



It's been eleven years since Gota has seen Kosmos, a man she met in Paris, and the love of her life. Now, it's 1999, and through an assignment as a journalist, she finds herself reunited with him in war torn Sarajevo. But the man she knew, and the country where he resides, are altered beyond recognition. Kosmos introduces Gota to Edina, the woman he has always loved. While Gota and Kosmos navigate a complicated relationship, she and Edina forge an unexpected bond. A lawyer and a force to be reckoned with, Edina exposes the sexual violence she and thousands of others survived in the war. Before long, Gota finds her life entwined with the community of women and travels with them to The Hague to confront their abusers. The events she covers – and the stories she hears – will change her life forever.

Written in Kim Echlin's masterfully luminescent prose, *Speak, Silence* is one of 2022's Evergreen nominees, and it's available from Haliburton County Public Library.

Rescue ready

New members for the ice water rescue teams in Algonquin Highlands, Dysart et al and Highlands East took part in an NFPA 1006 Ice Water Rescue course on Feb. 27 in Dorset.

Participants were training to the ice water rescue course as approved by the academics standards and evaluation division of the Office of the Fire Marshal of Ontario. In the first part of April each student will write a provincial exam to achieve their certification in ice water rescue.

Upon successful completion the student will become a member of the ice water rescue team for their municipality. Once a member of their municipal team, they will continue ongoing training with all members to ensure skill levels are maintained.

The weekend brought out a lot of highlights, and Algonquin Highlands fire chief Michael French said there were three that stood out.

"The first is how well the three municipalities worked together for a common result," he told the *Times*. "Second is the high level of instruction that was provided to the students – the level of training that is supplied to students for not only this course but all courses supplied by the departments within the county is second to nobody. And last but definitely not least is the dedication of the volunteer firefighters in the county, who give up their weekends to learn new skills to serve the members of their community and our visitors."

-Staff



Members of the Algonquin Highlands, Dysart et al and Highlands East volunteer firefighter teams took part in an NFPA 1006 Ice Water Rescue course on Feb. 27. The training leads to a provincial exam and certification in ice water rescue. /Photo above by Township of Algonquin Highlands. Photo, left, by Kathy Nesbitt



THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION Mabel D. Brannigan Branch 636 Minden

Due to the relaxation of COVID-19 rules,
we are now able to resume holding
our General Meetings as follows:

Wednesday March 2 at 7:30PM - update on Executive activities during COVID-19 rules (proof of vaccine required)

Wednesday April 6, 7:30 PM - Nominations for Officers and Executive

Wednesday May 4, 7:30PM - further nominations and elections

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Pay attention!

ONE OF THE best activities we can do for our bodies is to move them in as many different ways that they can move. That sounds like a big undertaking, doesn't it? It's totally cool to start small. Here's an example for you:

- If you're sitting down as you're reading this, stand up.
- After standing up, sit right back down.
- Now for the fun part. Stand up again but before you do pay attention to exactly how you go from seated to standing. Here's some stuff to watch for:
 - Do you move your feet before you stand? What position are your feet in when you stand?
 - Do you use your hands to help you get up? Right or left or both?
 - Do you lean to the left or the right or neither?

Great work. Now sit down again and observe your movements. Chances are that you sit and stand in a similar movement pattern every time that you do those actions. As a result your body is in a movement rut. The risk with being in a rut is that the risk of injury is increased when your body is forced out of that rut. That can happen during a slip or fall. The way to reduce the risk is by changing the pattern of movement.

Making movement changes is not physi-

cally difficult. Remembering to do them is the difficult part. Here are some ideas to incorporate into your day:

- Reach for things with the other hand then you normally do.
- Take the stairs by starting the opposite foot.
- Sit cross legged on the floor alternating which leg is in front and which is behind.
- Step into the shower or tub with the opposite foot then you usually use.

Changing your movement patterns like this will feel awkward at first. Your body will likely feel uncomfortable and maybe even a bit sore. That will dissipate with time as the muscles, ligaments and tendons loosen up and your range of motion increases.

We get so caught up in the day-to-day routines that we have that we stop noticing our physical health. It takes a moment to stop, observe and make a slight change that will make a huge difference in our well-being. It's time to pay attention.

Something to think about.

Laurie Sweig is a certified personal fitness trainer and spinning instructor. She owns and operates *The Point for Fitness*. She can be reached at laurie@thepointforfitness.com.



LAURIE SWEIG
Practical Fitness

Standard tests return with provincial learning plan

by NICK BERNARD
Times Staff

The following are brief reports from a meeting of the Trillium Lakelands District School Board (TLDSB) that was held virtually on Feb. 22:

TLDSB is getting ready for the return of standardized tests from the province's Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) in May.

In his director's update, TLDSB director Wes Hahn walked the board through Ontario's learning recovery action plan, which was unveiled by the province in Feb. The plan includes the return of the EQAO tests, which will be conducted with students from Grades 3, 6 and 9.

The learning plan is broken down into five main objectives: Measuring and assessing current learning levels, the funding of comprehensive tutoring support, student resilience and mental health, strengthening numeracy and literacy, and modernizing education.

Hahn outlined the board's plans for each category, starting with the EQAO in the spring. It will form the basis of the learning plan's measurement and assessment objective.

"It's quite clear that the ministry has indicated that through EQAO, they will continue to use that as a measurement tool for boards to be assessed," Hahn said. "We believe it's an important piece to how we will be moving forward with our plans."

Students in Grade 3 and 6 will be assessed on reading, writing, and mathematics, while the assessment for Grade 9 students will focus on mathematics.

An online practice assessment is available for the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT). The OSSLT measures whether students are meeting the minimum standard for literacy across all subjects up to the end of Grade 9. The practice assessment can be found on the EQAO website.

Local teacher receives director's recognition award

Katie Bjelis was awarded the Director's Recognition Award for her work as a Special Education Resource Teacher (SERT) at Stuart Baker Elementary School.

The Director's Recognition Award highlights extraordinary contributions by staff members, students, school volunteers, or community members, and is presented at each meeting of the board.

Bjelis was nominated by Stuart Baker's principal, Karyn Linton Marra.

"Katie is an inspiration. She juggles many hats, always with a smile, and genuine compassion," director Wes Hahn said, relaying thoughts from Linton Marra on Bjelis' nomination. "Working side-by-side with teachers, support staff, and educational assistants, she is an expert in behavior management and working with students with communication difficulties or other special needs. Yet, she seeks any new learning or information that will assist her to support students, allowing them to experience greater success."

Despite the meeting being held virtually, Bjelis still received an enthusiastic applause from everyone on the board.

"As a SERT, it really is a joy and a privilege to work alongside our youngest learners, with our highest need students, and their families," Bjelis said. "And I'm just so thankful to work alongside an incredible team with an amazing administrator, with supportive teachers and [educational assistants] ... just to create an inclusive, engaging experience for all."

Bjelis also expressed a deep appreciation for the work that she does day to day.

"I really do love teaching, I love my job, and my role, and I'm honoured and humbled to receive this award," she said.

The next regular meeting of Trillium Lakelands District School Board will be Mar. 22.

Schools to remain open during snow days, again

A temporary inclement weather procedure put in place by Trillium Lakelands District School Board since fall 2020 that saw schools closed to in-person attendance when school transportation was cancelled, has been lifted.

"This procedure supported student and staff safety at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, while allowing for the continuation of learning for students through online, asynchronous, teacher-supported instruction," reads a Feb. 24 press release from the school board.

"With the provincial government planning to ease COVID-19 restrictions in the coming weeks, TLDSB will return to our regular inclement weather procedure effective immediately."

The announcement came the day after students had experienced four snow days in a row, combined with a three-day holiday. Feb. 17, 18, 22 and 23, around Family Day weekend, saw buses cancelled due to snow flurries or freezing rain. To date, there have been eight inclement weather days in Haliburton County in the 2021 to 2022 school year.

A record was set in 2018 and 2019 with 14 cancellations across the board. Snow days have been tracked since the 2010 to 2011 school year.

Usually, the decision to cancel buses due to inclement weather or poor or deteriorating road conditions is made around 6 p.m., in consultation with bus operators, taking into consideration existing road conditions, weather conditions as reported by Environment Canada and any other information available at the time a decision has to be made, said Sinead Fegan, TLDSB spokesperson.

Students who remain at home on inclement weather days can access existing information on their online classroom, however there will no longer be new materials assigned or online meetings scheduled with teachers on inclement weather days.

Inclement weather day information can be found on TLDSB social media, the TLDSB website, on local radio stations or the district app, or at mybustoschool.ca.

- Staff



Ontario is getting stronger

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Ontario

County to conduct survey on short-term rentals

by **STEPHEN PETRICK**
Special to the Times

When tourists come to visit Haliburton County short-term are they contributing to the economy or are they a burden on the environment, public safety and causing other issues which threaten rural living charm?

Haliburton County expects to soon get residents' thoughts on this issue, as staff are preparing a survey to prepare for a new short-term rental policy.

A draft of the survey being prepared by the county's planning department, with the help of a North Bay-based planning firm, was released to Haliburton County council at the Wednesday, Feb. 23 virtual meeting.

The draft of the survey was heavily scrutinized by several councillors, meaning several changes will likely be made and eventually brought back to council for approval at a future meeting.

But the overall direction of the survey has not changed; it is to gauge what concerns residents see developing from the use of cottage rentals, Airbnbs and short-term housing stays.

It's expected to be the first of two surveys released, in

order to gain information that will help Haliburton County develop a policy that would put regulations on setting up short-term rental businesses.

"The intent of this survey really is to explore perspectives on short-term rental accommodations generally and to begin to understand both the issues and opportunities and what the constraints are," said Jason Ferrigan, from the firm, J.L. Richards & Associates.

The first draft of the survey asked residents to rank the level of concern they have on issues such as excessive noise, parking, public safety, impact on the tax base and loss of character in neighbourhoods, among other issues.

It also asked residents to express the level of concern they have for cottages and dwellings, whether they're used by a usual visitor, a periodically-present visitor, a frequent visitor or a year-round visitor.

But it's unlikely that those questions will be asked exactly in the way they were worded in the first draft.

"The questions are poorly worded," Dysart et al Deputy Mayor Pat Kennedy said bluntly, during one of four instances where he spoke up to criticize the survey draft.

In another instance, Algonquin Highlands Mayor Carol Moffatt said matter-of-factly, "I still don't understand what

you're looking for."

The comment was directed at Ferrigan, who was explaining the fourth and fifth questions on the survey, which asks responders to rank their level of concern on various issues.

Councillors lobbied for many lines to be rephrased differently and for the wording to be tweaked to get better, more succinct information.

Moffatt said the draft of the survey didn't meet her expectations, as she has been waiting for several years for a deep investigation into the benefits and costs associated with having plenty of short-term rental venues in the area.

Dysart et al Mayor Andrea Roberts also expressed concern that the survey, as it stood, was allowing people to express concerns they may have about short-term rental accommodations, but not an opportunity to express the positives.

"There is a great economic benefit to having more people come here and rent here. There are businesses thriving on the business of short-term rentals," she said. "Somehow that needs to be captured and I'm not sure how."

Council voted to receive the report and direct J.L. Richards & Associates to work on a new draft and bring it back to a future meeting. The survey was, originally, intended to be released in March.



Happy retirement

Algonquin Highlands township staff bid farewell to David Rogers, who served as the township's chief building official/by-law enforcement officer for seven and a half years, and retired Feb. 25. Rogers is succeeded by Greg Moore. /Submitted by the Township of Algonquin Highlands

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Fast Lane gets the ball rolling with reopening

by SUE TIFFIN
Editor

Ron Crump and Debbie Gerzymisch have been working hard to make Fast Lane Bowling the place to play. A fresh coat of paint, TVs to help keep an eye on the hockey game, the addition of a lounge area, and Haliburton County's indoor bowling alley is ready for action.

"It's pretty exciting, for sure," said Crump, who said he had been looking for something to do for retirement when the bowling alley opportunity rolled his and Debbie's way.

"We had to learn a lot of things along the way," he said. "It all comes pretty natural to Debbie, running a business."

Gerzymisch worked for a web hosting company doing books and account managing, while Crump works in construction.

"She's more the brains, and I'm more the brawn," said Crump. "I'm fixing things and she does the paperwork, so it works out well."

Gerzymisch said the couple, from Cameron, took ownership of the business which includes six lanes for five-pin bowling, on Jan. 28.

Gerzymisch laughed when asked about taking on a bowling alley as Crump's retirement project. "Not quite what I was expecting," she said. "But he's not just a sit around the house kind of guy, so I knew he needed something to keep him busy. So this wasn't really what I was expecting, but we're in it now, we'll give it our best shot."

In just a few weeks, they've been working on both the interior of the building, while also updating the branding of the business and hosting online surveys looking into the possibility of organizing leagues. Opportunities for youth, Special Olympics teams, mixed seniors, mixed adults and programming including birthday parties, glow-in-the-dark fun and school or rainy day camp programs will be available, as well as a between-game



Fast Lane Bowling has a new name, new touches inside and new owners – Ron Crump and Debbie Gerzymisch – who are planning for a grand opening on Friday, March 11 from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. /SUE TIFFIN Staff

tournament spot for hockey players or just those looking for something to do on the weekend.

"We're hoping that goes, that it gives kids a feel of bowling, and it gives them something to do on Saturday morning," said Crump.

Crump and Gerzymisch are looking forward to hosting family reunion events, and corporate and social functions.

"Even when I went into Home Hardware to buy the paint, people were saying, 'oh, you bought it, we've had Christmas parties there before with staff,'" said Gerzymisch, noting that people are ready for the doors to open for social events besides casual play.

"We've had a lot of inquiries about different events for different people, and we're pretty open to doing whatever is going to make everybody happy," said Crump.

Crump said his son was in support of the sale, telling him he'd bowled there with friends including a family friend who'd died of cancer in 2019. Crump and Gerzymisch

plan to honour that friend - Greg Brethour – with a plaque on the wall.

"It's just a thing I found out after the fact, that he and Greg used to come here to bowl," said Crump. "It's just a cool little thing."

While both Crump and Gerzymisch laugh out loud when asked if they're good at bowling, Crump said, "I'll figure it out. Back in the '80s, it was one of the things you did, so I've bowled before but it's been a long time," he said.

Support has been available as they prepare to open the venue, located at 12281 Highway 35 in Minden.

"Anyone who's been involved with bowling alleys, or owned bowling alleys, they've been super helpful," said Gerzymisch, who said people have been reaching out to answer questions and offer encouragement.

"It seems there's quite a bowling community out there, it's a really good thing, I think," said Crump.

"It doesn't seem to be a huge competitive thing, like our bowling centre is going to be better than your bowling centre kind of thing, but what can we do to help?" said Gerzymisch.

"The feedback is tremendous, it's really good, everybody likes the idea of it coming back," said Crump. "They're happy that somebody bought it, and are going to keep it open and run it as a bowling alley. All the feedback's been positive, for sure."

A grand opening is planned for March 11, from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Bowlers can call and reserve a lane or drop by then to see if one is available.

For more information, visit fastlanebowling.com, Fast Lane Bowling on Facebook or call 705-286-3900.



Fresh air

Dahl Forest on Geeza Road in Gelert area offers plenty of room to stretch, hike, ski or snowshoe. /SUE TIFFIN Staff



This year's diverse Trendy Para colour palette was designed for mixing and matching to create a beautiful refuge.



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Kinark Outdoor Learning Centre brings camp to your home

by **STEPHEN PETRICK**
Special to the Times

Can't make it to a campsite this spring or summer?

Don't worry, the Kinark Outdoor Learning Centre can bring the fun of camping right to your home.

The centre, which helps children with disabilities foster a love for the outdoors, is continuing with its Camp in a Box program this spring. For \$50, the Learning Centre will ship families a box that contains games and activities that can be used to mimic the experience of camping in the wilderness.

The box's content may include materials needed for building a bird feeder, going on an animal tracking hunt, or nature-themed crafts.

"They're just fun little activities and games that help with learning new skills and can strengthen family bonds," said Chelsea Brown, a program supervisor at the Kinark Outdoor Learning Centre, located at 1766 Queen's Line Rd. in Minden Hills.

The Camp in a Box program started last year when it was becoming apparent that another "COVID summer" would likely limit local families' abilities to go out and experience traditional camping. Brown said the boxes staff prepared last year sold out. The program was so well received that staff decided it should continue this year. Kinark is preparing to relaunch the program this month.

"People really enjoyed it; it was a great way to connect and do virtual activities that



Kinark Outdoor Centre staff participate in a virtual training event. The group is finding new ways to offer programs virtually. Pictured are Yasmeen Wafaei, Scott Dressel, Lacey Maxwell, Chelsea Brown, Michelle Durst, Ryan Mortell, and Shyanna Smith. /Photo submitted

were, in a sense, offline," Brown said.

In fact, if there's a silver lining in the pandemic, it's that groups like the Kinark Outdoor Centre were forced to discover new ways to serve families. Brown said that many of the centre's virtual programs are expected to remain in place, even if the pandemic wanes, because they've been successful at bringing new families to the Kinark Centre programs (even if not in a physical sense). Some families in the area, she noted, may still be unable to attend the centre in person, because of transportation issues or other barriers,

which is why the Camp in a Box program is so important.

"Our philosophies are about allowing people to try new things; get a break from routine," she said. "The (Camp in a Box program) gives a chance to experience those camp activities in a safe space."

As a supervisor for virtual programs, Brown is busy preparing for a number of activities. The Kinark Outdoor Centre also hosts an online respite program. For \$25 per hour, a child can connect virtually with another adult and do virtual activities.

The centre also has family programming, which includes a monthly trivia night event and special events, often themed around holidays. A St. Patrick's Day virtual night is planned for March 9.

There are also youth programs, which include an "escape room" night event, coming up on March 23.

For more details visit kinark.on.ca/koc. To register for Camp in a Box, or for more information on Kinark programs, email Brown at chelsea.brown@kinark.on.ca



WWW.HUSKIESHOCKEY.CA

Tickets are now available for purchase 1 hour prior to puck drop at the door.

March 8 @ 7:30 PM
vs North York Rangers

March 12 @ 4:30 PM
vs Lindsay Muskies

March 18 @ 7:30 PM
vs Mississauga Chargers

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GARDENS
OF HALIBURTON

Canoe FM's new Opera Night in Canada

by JERELYN CRADEN
Special to the Times

"Opera Night in Canada," (ONC) the new show on Haliburton's volunteer community radio station, Canoe FM, was given its name by creator and host, Dawn Martens, who is on a mission to change the idea of opera as elitist to one that is as accessible as hockey.

"I want to reach people who wouldn't necessarily listen to opera," Martens said. "I'll take an opera and show listeners how the storyline relates to popular culture and everyday life."

For twenty-six years, Martens ran the Buchanan Park Opera Club in Hamilton, an elementary school opera club and taught children about opera.

"They weren't in middle school yet when kids get a little pickier, so they were very open to the art form. I took an opera and re-wrote it with a narration and took the important excerpts from the opera and the children sang them in English, not in German or Italian," she said.

Martens produced 26 operas for children.

"My motive in doing this wasn't to produce opera singers. It was to give the kids that moment on stage where they shine. The medium was opera. But, really, what I wanted was to expose them to the arts and to different music."

Several of her students went on to pursue musical careers.

When she retired in the fall, Martens wanted to continue opera education, "because I feel it's an amazing art form," she said. "The radio show will be doing the same things, except for adults. They will see how the storyline of an opera relates to popular culture and everyday life."

"I came to opera as a newbie back in my university days and I saw an opera and swore I would never see one again. I thought I would die before the thing ended. It was in Russian and it was endless. The only thing good that I can remember about it was the ice cream at intermission," she said.

That changed when Martens went to an opera excerpt concert and a Canadian singer performed a piece from Don Giovanni.

"I found it amazingly hilarious and what clicked in my mind was that Mozart wrote this hundreds of years ago and we're still laughing at it now because it's still relevant," she said. "And then, I went to a production of *The Marriage of Figaro* and was impressed by a young singer who played the count. There were also subtitles projected on a screen above



Canoe FM's newest voice, Dawn Martens, has launched the radio station's newest program Opera Night in Canada. The program airs the third Thursday of each month. /Photo by John Martens

the stage translating the text being sung into English. So, that made it easy to follow and enjoy."

In 2021, Martens received the Governor General's Award for her online production of the opera *Bundibar* with a cast of Grade 4 to 6 students, an opera originally performed by children in a German concentration camp.

"The Nazis did a propaganda film of Jewish children and adults performing the opera before sending them to the gas chambers," she said. "They wanted to silence these poor children, but their legacy goes on in the music."

As a writer for Opera Canada magazine, Martens has access to opera singers, opera producers and directors.

"So, I'm reaching out to them and saying: Hey, come on my show and talk about opera. Opera people are quite hilarious and very down to earth, and have wonderful stories to tell," she said.

On ONC's Feb. 17 debut show, Martens' guest was John Fanning, Member of the Order of Canada, regarded as one of today's pre-eminent baritones.

“

I'll take an opera and show listeners how the storyline relates to popular culture and everyday life.

— DAWN MARTENS, OPERA NIGHT IN CANADA HOST

”

"He had some very interesting things to say about why opera has had a reputation for being elitist and how we can overcome that," she said.

"Opera singers are just regular people who happen to do opera as a profession," Martens said. She recalled having to drop something off to Richard Margison, a neighbour on the same lake as hers. Together, Margison and Valerie Kuinka founded the Highlands Opera Studio, which has hosted participants in Haliburton for professional development and have staged performances since 2007 (only interrupted by the pandemic).

"I was kind of nervous. The guy is famous, top of his game in opera. (Margison was named an Officer of the Order of Canada, and inducted into the Canadian Opera Hall of Fame, among other prestigious awards). "I boated into his place and there was Richard on an ATV, wearing sweat pants, a T-shirt and Crocs, driving the [ATV] to the beach to talk to me. A normal human being."

"I can't believe it. I love Haliburton, I love opera and I love Canoe FM and the tremendous support I'm receiving."

Opera Night in Canada airs on 100.9 Canoe FM every third Thursday of the month from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., and streams online at: canoe.fm.

You can contact Dawn Martens at: operanightincanada@gmail.com.

Citizen science volunteers needed to help monitor lakes

Are you passionate about the environment? Do you want to help monitor and preserve the lakes of Haliburton County for future generations?

The Woodlands and Waterways EcoWatch program is looking for aquatic monitoring volunteers to take part in free Ontario Benthos Biomonitoring Network training with the potential to become certified.

Woodlands & Waterways EcoWatch (WWEW) is a community-based environmental monitoring program co-ordinated by the U-Links Centre for Community Based Research in conjunction with several volunteer and not-for-profit organizations in the Haliburton Region. The program utilizes Trent University and Fleming College's resources and knowledge to assist community organizations in monitoring the long-term health of the forests and lakes of Haliburton County and the surrounding region. WWEW's programming is guided by a steering committee comprised of individuals from lake, cottage, and property owners' associations, the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust, Trent and Fleming faculty, and U-Links staff. These dedicated individuals bring unique perspectives to WWEW that result in an infectious enthusiasm for ensuring that our local natural resources can be maintained into the future.

In order to sustain WWEW's current and long-term benthic biomonitoring initiatives, we are looking for members of local lake associations interested in helping preserve our lakes and becoming citizen science volunteers. In 2022, WWEW will be providing free training to new and existing volunteers on how to sample and identify benthic macroinvertebrates. These are small insects living in near-shore areas that are known to be sensitive to changes in water quality.

The training follows protocols established by the Ontario Benthos Biomonitoring Network and participants will have the opportunity to become OBBN certified.

The instructor for the training sessions is Barb Elliot, a

long-time professor in the ecosystem management program at Fleming College and a certified taxonomist with the Society for Freshwater Science. It will be a combination of virtual and in-person sessions with the in-person days taking place at Windy Pine Conference Centre.

The training will take place in multiple sessions as follows:

- Day 1 (Virtual) – Thursday, March 10 – 9:00 a.m. to noon
- Day 2 (Virtual) – Thursday, March 24 – 9:00 a.m. to noon
- Day 3 (Field Day) – Saturday, June 4 – completion of field sheets, and identification practice – 9:00 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Day 4 (Certification Testing) – Saturday, June 11 – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Spots for the training are on a first come, first serve basis. Don't miss this opportunity to become OBBN certified; join us in monitoring and preserving the lakes of Haliburton County for future generations to enjoy. For more information or if you are interested in becoming a WWEW volunteer, please contact Sadie Fischer at U-Links, by emailing environmental@ulinks.ca or calling 705-286-2411.

Submitted by U-Links Centre for
Community Based Research

Land trust premieres two videos during online event

The Haliburton Highlands Land Trust is excited to premiere two new videos at a public, online event. Everyone is invited to tune in via Zoom at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 3. The event registration link will be shared on Facebook and on the HHLT website at www.haliburtonlandtrust.ca. HHLT chair, Shelley Hunt, will host this live, online event.

In 2021, HHLT was awarded an Ontario Trillium Foundation Resilient Communities Fund (OTF RCF) grant for \$48,000. The funds have been used to help the Land Trust rebuild and recover from the impacts of the pandemic by re-designing and updating our website, creating an informational video, and offering educational and training programs for our volunteers. As part of these efforts, a key project activity was to hire a videographer to document Land Trust properties

with public access. We are proud to report that Brad Brown of UpsideBrown was hired to showcase the important values and uses of Dahl Forest and Barnum Creek Nature Reserve.

The Land Trust is thrilled to premiere "Conservation in Action" as part of our OTF recognition event. Brad will be present to talk briefly about filming the video and to answer any questions you might have.

In addition to this video, we are taking the opportunity to premiere another special video, "Wonder in the Woods" made by Sticks and Stones Productions and funded by TD Friends of the Environment. Videographers Tammy Rea and Midori Nagai will also be in attendance.

Submitted by Haliburton Highlands Land Trust

Bryan Rashleigh: The Veteran of Ice Racing

by ALEX GALLACHER
Special to the Times

Since the 1970s, British Automobile Racing Club's president Bryan Rashleigh has been coming down to Minden to compete in the annual ice racing events. From the humble beginnings, ice racing has come a long way. From racing in a swampy area in Minden, to now moving to a Kin Club-built course on the fairgrounds, the sport has changed a lot in the last 50 years.

"When I first started we did different venues every weekend," Rashleigh said. "We went to Peterborough, we've raced on Lake Couchiching and Kempenfelt Bay. When the Kin Club built the first track in Minden down in the swamp area, it was the first track built in the area. The first year I was doing it, they asked me if I wanted to take one of the Kin Club members for a ride and lo and behold it was Tom Prentice. Tom ended up racing with me the next year."

The world looks a lot different than it did in 1976, and racing as a whole has changed drastically. Cars, drivers and tracks have come and gone and while back in the day the rear wheel drive class was the most popular, Rashleigh said over the years the front wheel drive class really became dominant. But also a lot of things have stayed the same. Most of all, the fun.

"The camaraderie has always stayed the same over the years," said Rashleigh. "If someone needs a hand fixing their car, someone is always there. We had a few guys who were rough drivers, but they got weeded out. The fun part is the same ... The friendships I have made over the years, definitely stay the same."

While some might assume the ice racing community has plateaued into the same groups of people, that's actually far from the truth. The scene has swiftly grown, as it's one of the most affordable forms of racing to get into. No need for million dollar sponsorships or aerospace engineers to design your car, ice racing is simple and grass roots.

The fact that some guys are still racing their cars from the '80s and '90s more than 30 years later, shows a lot about the longevity of the sport.

"I'm probably the longest running guy currently," added Rashleigh. "Tom started the year after I did and my friend Ken Shaw started around 1978. Steve Robson who also started in '78 still races, but some guys race for many years while others show up and are gone after two years. Other guys who didn't race for a decade, will come back after a while. It evolves every few years, we always have a new batch of drivers."

Rashleigh, like most racers, caught the bug after watching someone else do it. After working for Attrell Toyota, owned by one of Canada's sports car legends Bob Attrell Sr., he became interested in ice racing. Watching someone else do it and have a lot of fun on the track stuck out to Rashleigh, and as the sport wasn't too expensive to get into, his love was born.



Veteran ice racer Bryan Rashleigh keeps his eye on the track. /Photo by Richard Coburn

Cars looked a lot different in the '70s and usually consisted of two or more cars combined together. While Rashleigh has experience driving in hobby cars, nothing could've prepared him for the unique ice racing experience.

"Back in the '70s my brother and I raced in the Hobby Cars series in Flamboro," Rashleigh said. "I started working at Attrell Toyota and Bob Attrell Sr., he was into ice racing. He told me all about it, and he had an Austin Mini that didn't have a roof on it. He also had a Toyota Corolla and I decided that I needed to watch this car race. I went out and watched and I knew I needed to try this. I found a car a week later and the rest is history."

Ice racing is considered a gateway series for people who want to try out competition driving. Most of the time all you need is a 10 to 20-year-old pony car that can be configured to race on the ice, and roughly \$300 to rent a licence. Compared to other series like the NASCAR Pinty's Series or Canadian Touring Car Championship, the costs to run an ice racing car pale in comparison.

There are lots of old cars that you could pay less than the price of a washing machine for, the only real challenge is preparing the tires on a tractionizer. The device helps the tires get better grip — most veterans usually just buy used tires.

Rashleigh has won 10 rubber and ice class championships, but his best memories come from having his two sons race with him.

"I've had a lot of wins and class championships over the years," Rashleigh said. "But nothing compares to racing with my two sons and watching them do better than I did. Another thing I'm really proud of is my car. It's a 1980 Toyota Tercel that Bob Attrell took off the road at 6,000 kilometres, Bob and his son raced the car all over the place and I took over the car in 1989 and I've had it ever since."



Bryan Rashleigh has been taking part in the Minden ice races with his Toyota Tercel for decades. /Submitted photo

As the newcomers come up through the ranks, the elder statesmen of the series like Rashleigh, Prentice and Shaw are always thrilled to see them do well. As the future of the sport relies on the newcomers, Rashleigh knows ice racing is in good hands.

Huskies drop two in row, fall to Patriots and Golden Hawks

Joe Boice scores first OJHL goal as crowd goes wild

by ALEX GALLACHER
Special to the Times

The Haliburton County Huskies concluded their February with two straight losses coming at the hands of the Toronto Patriots and Trenton Golden Hawks on Friday and Saturday at the S.G Nesbitt Memorial Arena.

On Friday, the Toronto Patriots came to town looking to break a seven-game losing streak, while the Huskies looked to get back on the path of winning after taking down the Lindsay Muskies in their last home game.

The Patriots came out of the gate swinging. At the 6:48 mark Joseph Martino ripped a shot past Christian Linton to score the only goal of the period. The Huskies maintained the pressure but unfortunately couldn't break through.

A scoring frenzy broke out during the second with five goals total scored, three for the Pats and two for the Huskies. After a bad

bounce of the boards caught Linton out of position, Nolan Lowe buried the puck into the empty net to double the lead.

Ryan Forberg added two goals, with the first coming at 5:40 and the second at 14:05. Just like that, the Huskies found themselves down 4 to 0 on home ice. However, all hope wasn't lost, as in the span of 30 seconds the Huskies added a pair of their own. Christian Stevens buried a beautiful shot past Robert Andreakos Jr., using a defensive screen to his advantage.

Then on the very next play, Patrick Saini added a goal of his own. Shooting around the net, and beating Andreakos. Sadly however, that would be the only two goals scored for the Huskies as McKay Hayes added an empty netter in the third to seal the 5 to 3 victory for the Patriots.

Despite outshooting the Pats 50 to 42, the Huskies recorded their fifth loss of the month.

The Huskies closed out the month of February with one more home game coming

against the division-leading Trenton Golden Hawks. In an important match, the Huskies fell to third in the East as they were leapfrogged by Wellington.

In similar fashion to the last game, the Huskies got off to a rocky start. Less than two minutes in, Jake Campbell scored after Kolby Poulin took a tripping penalty.

Trenton's league-leading power play made no mistake to showcase why they are the league's best. Four minutes later Matthew Cato buried a one timer from Justin Mauro past Christian Cicigoi to double the Hawks' lead heading into the intermission.

Trenton's Aiden MacIntosh added another goal around four minutes into the period. Following that goal, the Huskies had enough and clawed their way back.

First up, Peyton Schaly. Schaly took advantage of a Rajvir Sangha penalty to beat William Nguyen, to get the Huskies on the board after many attempts. Less than 30 seconds later, Lucas Stevenson buried an Oliver Tarr rebound to pull the Huskies within one.

Then, the goal heard around the county.

All season long, Joe Boice has been a fan favourite, however a goal has been just out of reach. Tonight, the tables would turn.

Coming back from a one game suspension, Boice tipped in a shot by Haliburton's Ryan Hall to tie the game and send the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena into a frenzy. His first OJHL goal couldn't have come at a better time. Despite the amazing second period by the Huskies, at the 1:10 mark and on the power play an errant pass from Cicigoi found its way onto the stick of Dalton Bancroft who made no mistake. Jake Campbell added his second of the night on the power play, to seal the deal for Trenton who went home with a 5 to 3 victory.

The Huskies will be on the road, visiting the St. Michael's Buzzers on March 4 before returning home on March 8 to take on the North York Rangers. The Huskies will look to turn their season around in March, as the push for the playoffs continue.



by ALEX GALLACHER
Special to the Times

GET TO KNOW THE HUSKIES: JOE BOICE

One of only two local players on the Huskies roster is West Guilford's own Joe Boice. The forward has made quite a name for himself as an agitator who isn't afraid to stir the pot and get under the other team's skin during games. Taking a more aggressive style of play, Boice enters his first full season in the OJHL after playing a handful of games for Whitby back in 2019-20.

Boice is a player that everyone loves to have on their team, but nobody wants to play against. His aggressive playing style has suited him as an agitator, similar to a Brad Marchand he has been a hit with the home fans and a villain to the visiting fans.

"If we had to play against Joe it would be a pain in the butt," said Huskies goalie Christian Cicigoi. "He is a great guy to have on our team and no matter how many minutes he plays he always gives it his all. He has that grit to him and the locker room loves him, everyone would go to battle for him. He brings so much to the team, and despite being one of the younger guys he is definitely a leader."

Starting his career playing locally, Boice moved to Lindsay in order to pursue hockey. He graduated to the Whitby Fury at the age of 16, and moved with the team upon relocation to Haliburton. Getting the experience was a big deal for Boice who every game has seen steady improvement.

"I started out playing up here," Boice said. "I moved up to Lindsay to keep playing then I tried out in Whitby and was an AP when I was 16. I signed with them when I was 17 and then the team moved here so it's been good."

Being from the area, Boice's family has been able to come to almost all of the games this season. Similar to his fellow countyman Ryan Hall, having his family in the stands serves as an extra level of support on ice.

Since joining the Huskies, he has been given the opportunity to do something he never did much of in Whitby: win. The Huskies currently sit at second in the East Division, with a seven point deficit to the first place Trenton Golden Hawks. The Huskies have been stringing together an impressive collections of wins, with two straight against the division leading Golden Hawks.

For Boice, he doesn't care how the team wins he just loves winning.

"My family comes to most of the



games," added Boice. "Playing in front of them is great, it's also been great because I love to win. We've won a lot of games this season and it's good."

Boice can be called one of the Huskies' Icemen, a guy cool, calm and unbothered during times of conflict. Each game Boice gives it his all, and last weekend he scored his first OJHL goal, with an assist from Hall. Prior to that happening, Boice said he wasn't too worried about it as his bigger role in the teams' overall success is much more important.

Being a team player is important to Boice, and it helps energize the fans that come out each night.

"It's fun to play in front of all those people in the crowd, it definitely makes it easier," Boice said. "But in terms of my first goal, I'm not too worried about it. It's not what I'm out there to do so I don't stress about it."

The Huskies have grown together a lot since coming together this season, and despite not being a billeted player Boice still has good relationships with many of the Huskies players. Guys like Isaac Sooklal and Jack Staniland have been long time teammates of Boice from both the Fury and his time in Brooklin, so it was pretty easy to adjust when a lot of the guys are well known. The most important thing pregame to Boice is to get a good warm up in. Being prepared mentally for a game in important, as it can sent the tone for what's to come.

As the season progresses look for most visiting teams in Haliburton County to have a separate page in their game plan to deal with Iceman himself, the Huskies agitator: Joe Boice.

Highlands resident and Haliburton Highlands Secondary School student Joe Boice has appreciated being able to play in front of family and friends as a member of the Haliburton County Huskies this season. /DARREN LUM Staff



HALIBURTON COUNTY LAND DIVISION COMMITTEE NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 53 of the Planning Act and Section 3, O.Reg. 197/96 that the following Applications for Consent will be considered by the Land Division Committee.

AND FURTHER THAT a public meeting will be held March 14th, 2022 at 7:00 P.M. to consider these applications.

AND FURTHER THAT this public meeting will be held through remote electronic participation in accordance with the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended. The media and the public can view the Land Division Committee meeting webcast via the County of Haliburton YouTube channel which can be found on the County's website by searching the Land Division Committee (https://youtu.be/LqgF_TKu2dU).

AND FURTHER THAT these Applications for Consent will be heard by the Land Division Committee:

1. File No.s: H-003/21, H-004/21, H-005/21 and H-026/21 Gonnson Property Location: Pt Lot 5 & 6, Conc 1, GTwp of Dudley, and Pt Lot 6, Conc 33, GTwp of Dysart Purpose of Consent: Condition Change (ROW)	
2. File No. H-015/21 Ellis Property Location: Pt Lot 22 & 23, Conc 22, GTwp of Cardiff (HE) Purpose: Condition Change (New Lot)	3. File No. H-028/21 Parish Property Location: Pt Lot 10, Conc 5, GTwp of Stanhope (AH) Purpose: New Lot t/w ROW
4. File No. H-002/22 Bovenizer Property Location: Pt Lot 2, Conc 2, GTwp of Harcourt (DY) Purpose: Right-of-way	5. File No. H-003/22 Belfry Property Location: Pt 1-4, RP 19R-9830, Pt Lot 2, Conc 2, GTwp of Harcourt (DY) Purpose: Right-of-way
6. File No. H-004/22 Hammerhead Holdings Inc. Property Location: Pt Lot 3, Conc 13, GTwp of Snowdon Purpose: Right-of-way (MH)	7. File No. H-006/22 Colpitts & Ecclestone Property Location: Pt Lot 20, Conc 10, GTwp of Lutterworth (MH) Purpose: Right-of-way
8. File No. H-018/22 Lewis Property Location: Conc 22, Pt Lot 27 and 28, GTwp of Cardiff Purpose: New Lot (HE)	9. File No. H-019/22 Lewis Property Location: Conc 22, Pt Lot 27 and 28, GTwp of Cardiff Purpose: New Lot (HE)
10. File No. H-020/22 Fletcher Property Location: Conc 11, Pt Lots 9 & 10, GTwp of Lutterworth Purpose: Right-of-way (MH)	

Additional information regarding these consents is available for the public by request during regular business hours, Monday to Friday, from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

If a person or public body that files an appeal of a decision of the Land Division Committee in respect of the proposed consent does not make written submissions to the Land Division Committee before it gives or refuses to give a provisional consent, the Ontario Land Tribunal may dismiss the appeal.

If you wish to be a public meeting attendee and/or wish to be notified of the decision of the Land Division Committee concerning these consents, you must make a written request to the undersigned.

Dated at the Township of Minden Hills on March 1, 2022.

Michele Moore
Deputy Secretary-Treasurer
Haliburton County Land Division Committee
11 Newcastle Street
P. O. Box 399
Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0
Telephone: (705) 286-1333
or 1-866-886-8815, Ext. 239
Fax: (705) 286-4829
E-mail: mmore@haliburtoncounty.ca



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to investigate these teachings.

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and there is always time."

If you have any questions or if you would like more information
contact a Bahai in your area.

Haliburton Helen 705-457-1999, Minden George and Kathie 705-286-3378
West Guilford/Kenisis, Pat and Peter 416-606-9657
Eagle Lake/Fort Irwin Gord and Kathryn 705-754-0939 or www.bahai.org

GENERATIONS

EarlyON centres reopen in schools



We are excited to announce that our program locations in Minden, at Archie Stouffer Elementary School, and in Haliburton, at J.D. Hodgson, are open again!

We have been fortunate to be able to co-ordinate community locations for our in-person and outdoor programs during the pandemic, but are very happy to be opening the doors to children and families at our “home” sites

once again. We can’t wait to see familiar and new faces joining us for play, connection and learning. These programs are by pre-registration as spaces are limited, to follow current health guidelines.

But that’s not all! For those who enjoy nature, storywalks, and fun in the snow, there will also be an outdoor program in Minden weekly, on Wednesdays. If you live closer to

Wilberforce, the Lloyd Watson Centre will be the place to meet on Thursday mornings for active play, stories and music.

Families who have enjoyed our gym days in the past will be happy to know that Fit Kids is returning in March and will be held at the Legion in Haliburton on Mondays. We are grateful to the United Way for providing the funding for this fun program.

In celebration of International Women’s Day on March 8, we will be reading and giving away two copies of *Alis the Aviator*. This colourful Canadian alphabet book about aviation was inspired by Dr. Alis B. Kennedy, Member of the Order of Ontario, veteran, senator for the Metis Nation of Ontario, pilot and adventurer. If you would like a chance to win a copy of this book, please enter our draw using the link found on our Facebook page.

In March, EarlyON is offering other opportunities to connect with your children. We have created “5 Senses Science Kits” which will be mailed right to your door. Each kit includes information, supplies and instructions for several interesting activities you can do at home with your children (it is best suited to those three to five years of age). We have also assembled “grass head” kits that children

can make, water, watch and cut the grass they grow from seed. All supplies are included, and the kits will be available for pick up at Haliburton County Library branches starting March 7. Consider getting yours to grow during the March break!

To register for our in-person programs, or for more information, or zoom schedules, please see our Facebook page or website; or call us, we love to connect with families!

www.oeyc.ca
705-324-7900

Julie Bosker
Program Coordinator
EarlyON Child and Family Centre
Minden and Haliburton

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Level: Beginner

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers on page 19

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!



Cai Jenkins, 3, goes for a drive with his dinosaur at the EarlyON centre. /Photos submitted by OEYC

Micheal Gliddon, 3, enjoyed painting and cutting shapes in playdough during his visit.



Staff and students were happy to see the babies, such as Brantley Alcock and Ashlyn Sharples



Mom Justine helps her son Brantley down the slide - he was all smiles!

KINMOUNT CONNECTION

Let me take you to a place you may have never been before. This remarkable treasure takes the word unique to a whole new level. A true one of a kind, this place is beyond imagination, but not beyond the imagination of one man, Keith Stata. The treasure he created is Highlands Cinemas. And it's located right here in Kinmount.

For those who have been there, you know what I'm talking about. For those who have not, you gotta go there! You must see it to believe it.

To begin with, it doesn't look like a theatre. Tucked away in the bush, it's a theatre in disguise. I'll never forget standing in a long lineup one midsummer evening when the fellow in front of me turned and asked, "Where's the theatre?" I chuckle each time I think of his look of confusion and bewilderment when I nodded toward the modest doors ahead of us and replied, "Right there." He looked at me like I was crazy!

Little did he know that behind those doors laid a place of wonderment, hiding five theatres created with items from times gone by, and a multitude of meandering hallways bursting with displays of movie memorabilia stretching from the movie industry's early beginnings to present times. He was in for a treat he would most definitely remember.

And there's another hidden surprise at this location, a cat sanctuary. The cats are a mixture of stray, feral and abandoned cats. Keith has created a second labyrinth, this one a sub-division containing 48 resident cats who have heated cat houses with connecting tunnels, bridges, and runways galore. The cost for food and veterinary services is high and Keith is happy to accept donations for the cat's upkeep. If you would like to donate, please e-transfer: keithstata@nexicom.net or mail to Box 85, 4131 County Rd. 121, Kinmount, Ontario K0M 2A0.

A couple of more abnormalities yet exist at Highlands Cinemas. The theatre is cash only, no debit or credit cards, and it operates on a seasonal basis from May to October. To

the disappointment of many, it has been closed for the past two years due to the pandemic. However, it finally looks like full steam ahead. All lights are green, and the theatre should open as usual this spring. The expected opening date is Friday, May 6. Can't wait! As Keith says, hope to "see you

at the movies!"

For updates visit highlandscinemas.com or call 705-488-2199.

By Lynne Kilby



Kinmount resident Keith Stata houses 48 cats found to be stray, feral or abandoned, caring for them in cat houses with connecting tunnels, bridges, and runways galore. /Photo by Matt Finlin



Township of Algonquin Highlands

PUBLIC NOTICE

Applicant: Sanderson
Lot 1, Concession 2
Geographic Township of Stanhope

WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Algonquin Highlands has declared part of the original shore road allowance lying in front of Lot 1, Concession 2, Hindon Lake, in the geographic Township of Stanhope, in the Township of Algonquin Highlands, County of Haliburton, to be surplus.

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Municipal Corporation of the Township of Algonquin Highlands proposes to enact a By-Law to stop-up, close and convey to the abutting property owner(s) that part of the original shore road allowance lying in front of Lot 1, Concession 2, described as all and singular that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate, lying and being in the Geographic Township of Stanhope, in the County of Haliburton and being composed of the following:

FIRSTLY: THAT part of the original shore road allowance lying in front of Lot 1, Concession 2, described as Part 1 on a Plan deposited in the Registry Office for the Registry Division of Haliburton County as Plan 19R-10600;

SECONDLY: THAT part of the original shore road allowance lying in front of Lot 1, Concession 2, described as Part 1 on a Plan deposited in the Registry Office for the Registry Division of Haliburton County as Plan 19R-10600;

The proposed By-Law will come before the said Council for consideration at its regular meeting at the Algonquin Highlands Municipal Office, 1123 North Shore Road, on the 17th day of March, 2022 and at that time, the Council will hear in person or by his/her counsel, solicitor or agent any person who claims that his/her land will be prejudicially affected and who applies to be heard. Any person who wishes to be heard by Council regarding this proposed closure must contact the Clerk to schedule a delegation with Council.

Dated: March 2nd, 2022

Sean O'Callaghan
Planner
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Rd.
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1J1
Tel: (705) 489-2379
Email: socallaghan@algonquinhighlands.ca



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- » **August 19, 2022** (9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.)

- **Candidates must submit signatures of 25 eligible voters, in their municipality, to support their nomination.** (not applicable for School Board Trustee(s))

For more information please visit your local municipality's website or contact the Clerks Department.

Township of Algonquin Highlands
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www.algonquinhighlands.ca

Dawn Newhook, Municipal Clerk

Municipality of Dysart et al
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Mallory Bishop, Municipal Clerk

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Robyn Rogers, Municipal Clerk

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AROUND THE COUNTY TOWN



Gone fishing

Evan Petrina and Miles Strong wait patiently for a nibble and a pull of the line while making some winter memories at Miner's Bay Lodge. /Photo submitted



Rocks on the ice

Richie Couper gives outdoor, frozen lake curling a try while visiting Miner's Bay Lodge on Family Day weekend. The first Popsiel at the lodge was held for Ron Couper, a guest of 47 years, who passed away at age 77. /Photo submitted



A boost from Bruce

Haliburton County Red Wolves Skylar Pratt, Dawn Piercey and Alyssa Whitaker (at back) got a visit in with former bowling and curling coach Bruce Fisher on Feb. 23 when he surprised the team by dropping in for a visit. /Photo submitted by the Haliburton County Red Wolves

To see your loved ones on this page, send photos to sue@haliburtonpress.com

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5	8	6	1	9	3	7	2	4
1	4	2	6	7	5	9	3	8
6	2	3	9	5	8	1	4	7
4	5	8	3	1	7	2	9	6
9	1	7	2	6	4	3	8	5
7	9	5	4	2	1	8	6	3
8	6	4	7	3	9	5	1	2
2	3	1	5	8	6	4	7	9



Local Landmark of the month

St. Peter's Anglican Church. This lovely stone church with its iconic stone fence sits on the shores of Maple Lake. Made from local materials by a congregation member and skilled stone mason, John Henry Billing, the stone church replaced the original wooden building in 1905. Mr. Billing, who apprenticed in England, built and designed many stone houses and other structures in the area. It is believed that he designed, but did not build, St. Stephen's Anglican Church on Buckslide Rd. Local legend is that he showed up to work on the St. Stephen's church only to find that they had already laid the foundation. The story goes that he refused to build on another man's foundation, packed up his tools, and went home. Sometimes called the "Brides Church" because so many weddings have happened there, this lovely building and the cemetery adjacent are a well-known landmark and a beloved place of worship for its congregation. The building is in remarkably good shape, a testament to the dedication of its congregation and the skill of its original construction. This is part of a Local Landmark series, featuring a different historic or cultural landmark from within the county, brought to you by the Haliburton Highlands tourism team. Follow Haliburton Highlands on Instagram or Facebook to see the weekly features from throughout the county.

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- Must reside in Haliburton County
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- Required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19

Interested candidates should forward their resume with writing and photography samples to Editors, Darren Lum or Sue Tiffin

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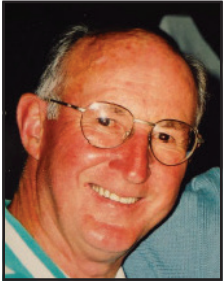
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650 OBITUARIES



In Loving Memory of **Bunker, Bruce John**

Bruce John Bunker, 88, of Richmond Hill, Ontario peacefully passed away on Monday, February 21, 2022 at Mackenzie Health Hospital.

Bruce was born in Rathburn, Ontario on April 15, 1933 in the family farmhouse. The family later moved to Orillia where he eventually graduated from the Orillia District Collegiate and Vocational Institute. He continued on to receive his Bachelor of Education degree from The University of Toronto.

Bruce was married to Barbara (nee Bird) on June 29, 1961.

He was a career teacher with the North York Board of Education, specializing in Math and Industrial Arts, instructing at Yvonne Avenue Public, Ledbury Park Elementary and Pleasant View Junior High Schools. In his youth he excelled at athletics, particularly baseball and hockey, representing Orillia area teams over numerous seasons. He was one of the original members of The Orillia Road Knights Motorcycle Club. Later in life, golf became his passion while spending family summer vacations at "The Cottage" in Ingoldsby, Ontario and snowbird winters in Florida. Frequently roaming the fairways of Blairhampton and Pinestone, and the bordering woods and ponds searching to add to his vast golf ball collection. Tinkering was also a favourite hobby, spending hours in the "workbarn", basement or garage on a repair, woodworking, ornament creation or renovation project. His love of family and friends shone throughout his life and he touched many many more lives than he knew, and we are all better for it.

Bruce is survived by his wife, Barbara, children David (Lisa), Diana (Brad), Maria (Ken), grandchildren Sandra (Mike), Kristine (Matt), Chloe, Kael, Sean, Avery, brother Jim (Betty) and many nieces and nephews.

Bruce is preceded in death by brother Bob (Helen) and sisters Katherine (Elmer) and Shirley (Bill). In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be given to The Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada.

A celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

"What we once have enjoyed we can never lose. All that we love deeply becomes part of us." – Helen Keller

"Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened." - Dr. Seuss

Remember

They are waiting
by the river,
Just across
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Where sweet flowers
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with The Times

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The Haliburton Outdoors Association has been helping wildlife by feeding the deer in parts of Anson Township.
Page 3

Inside

Snow food

Snowmobilers are discovering a new place to stop their hunger pangs while out on the county's trails.

Page 11

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Minden

March 22, 1993

Taxes up 5%

Reeve Berry objects to draw from reserves

by Russ Duhaime

Highlands ratepayers will see an average increase of three per cent in the county portion of their tax bills this year.

County Council approved its budget Wednesday which calls for a 5.16 per cent increase in the county levy. Warden Chris Hodgson notes that this is offset by a growth rate of about two per cent, which means the net effect on the tax bills will be about three per cent.

The only dissenting vote cast for this year's budget came from Minden Reeve Bern Berry, who said he has two major concerns.

In order to minimize the tax increase, the county is pulling \$140,000 from reserves. Berry, who opposes this move, said the county's reserve funds are so small "it's almost a joke."

Reserve funds are like savings accounts. They are set up in order to minimize the need to borrow from the bank for large expenditures, thereby limiting the cost of borrowing.

Berry said it is "poor business" to draw money out of reserves to offset budgetary increases.

Berry's second concern involves the budgets for Highland Crest and Social Services. The new budget for Hyland Crest is \$5,000 less than actual spending in 1992. He notes contract negotiations with the nurses are ongoing and could produce wage hikes of up to 29 per cent. He also cautioned that other initiatives in the care for the elderly could result in higher costs at the home.

When asked for his suggestions, Berry said he would like to see more time spent on the budget in an effort to cut costs in areas other than social services or Hyland Crest.

The county followed the open budget process which was established in 1992. It started a month ago with the receipt of preliminary estimates from the various department, was followed with presentations from the public and department heads and wrapped up Thursday with the final stamp of approval from council.

"It was a month-long process," Warden Chris Hodgson said of the budget.

(more on page 2)

Snow depth holds risk of spring flood conditions

by Russ Duhaime

With spring weather approaching, the staff at the Trent Severn Waterway are closely monitoring local conditions to help alleviate the risk of flooding.

The snow depth is greater than it has been for the past eight or nine years, says Bruce Kitchen. This poses a danger in the event of a sudden thaw accompanied by rain.

The lake levels, however, are well below their average for this time of the year, which compensates for the deep snow. The reservoir lakes are normally at 40 per cent of their capacity at this time of the year, says Kitchen. This year it's closer to 30 per cent, he said.

"A big rain now would be awkward," says Kitchen, "but we still have to fill the lakes."

As a result of the low lake levels, the flow through the Gull River system is very slow. Water movement through the Gull was so slow last week that the river was completely frozen over on Thursday morning. This is the first time in recent history that ice has been able to form on this normally swift river.

In spite of the snow depth, Kitchen says the risk of flooding does not appear to be worse than in recent years. When the thaw begins it will take some time to refill the lakes, he said.

When the lake levels are low, the Trent Severn Waterway has some control over the potential for flooding throughout the watershed. By putting stop logs in at the dams, it can limit the flows.

Once the lakes near their maximum limits, however, the waterway runs out of options, says Kitchen. Holding back the water could mean flooding for lakefront properties. Alternately, increasing the flows from the lakes could mean flooding downstream. In this event, Kitchen says, the waterway tries not to favour either group.



Jessey Scero flies over a gigantic bump while out sledding with his mother Heather and brothers Nathan and Benni last Thursday in Minden. The huge snowpile at the back of the municipal parking lot on Bobcaygeon Road made for a bumpy ride for this group as they enjoyed the March school break.

Health care study is completed

by Russ Duhaime

The findings of the consultant's study will be released Tuesday morning at the county's health care planning and development committee meeting.

Over the past two months, the team of consultants has been investigating options for the future of health care, social services and housing in the county. The final phase of this study is now complete and the options will be

presented to the Haliburton County Planning and Development Committee during a meeting at the Haliburton Legion at 9:30 a.m. tomorrow.

Tuesday's meeting will begin with a presentation by the consultants. Committee Chairman Jack Brezina says their will be an opportunity for questions following the presentation.

The options presented Tuesday will be further evaluated by the committee during a later meeting.

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